

The investments that the IFI made in border counties provided an economic boost to communities that had no hope. In tumultuous times where communities were divided by religion, the IFI sponsored projects that not only created desperately needed jobs but employment where Catholics and Protestants worked side by side.

Marcelle and I have become close friends with Willie and his wife Mary. I know that our friendship will transcend his departure as chairman from the IFI. We look forward to visits with both of them here and in Ireland for many years to come.

The Irish Times interviewed Willie McCarter prior to his stepping down as chairman of the IFI at the end of February. I ask unanimous consent that the entire article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Irish Times, Feb. 4, 2005]

FUND CHAIRMAN PREPARES TO BID A FOND
FAREWELL

Willie McCarter, who is stepping down as chairman of the International Fund for Ireland, tells Siobhan Creaton, Finance Correspondent, of its many achievements.

After 15 years as a key figure at the International Fund for Ireland (IFI), Derry-born businessman Willie McCarter is preparing for departure.

At the end of February he will relinquish the chairman's role to Denis Rooney. Mr. Rooney is a chartered quantity surveyor and businessman from Northern Ireland whom the British and Irish governments have hailed as a skilled and able leader for the fund.

Mr. McCarter will be sad to say goodbye but says he is proud of the IFI's contribution towards creating a more stable community in Northern Ireland.

The fund, which has committed 768 million to 5,500 projects in the North and border counties, was set up by the Irish and British governments in 1986 as a vehicle to promote economic regeneration and reconciliation in Northern Ireland and the six border counties.

The late U.S. politician T.P. "Tipp" O'Neill championed the idea after a visit to Donegal and Derry.

"John Hume brought him to see his grandmother's home outside Buncrana in 1985 and later they went to Derry. That was during the dark days of unemployment and Tipp said he would try to do something to create jobs," Mr. McCarter says.

In Washington, O'Neill's quest to raise financial aid for the region was supported by President Reagan and resulted in the U.S. Government pledging \$50 million (EUR 38.4 million) for this purpose.

The British and Irish governments, which had concluded the Anglo-Irish Agreement, used the money to start the IFI in 1986.

It was a controversial vehicle and, having grown out of this agreement, was viewed with deep suspicion by Northern Ireland's Protestant community.

Mr. McCarter, a Protestant, recalls the fund's initial difficulties.

"It had very few friends. It got bound up in the political to-ing and fro-ing around the Anglo Irish Agreement."

In 1989, Mr. McCarter, who was chief executive of Fruit of the Loom, the clothing manufacturer that was rapidly expanding in Donegal and Derry, was asked to get involved. The US clothing manufacturer had invested

in Mr. McCarter's women's underwear manufacturing plant in Buncrana in 1985 and had agreed to invest GBP 18.5 million (EUR 26.8 million) and to grow its workforce in Donegal and Derry to 3,500.

"I was up to my tonsils running Fruit of the Loom," he says. "I spoke to John Holland his mentor in the US about getting involved in the fund. He said it would be very good for me and for the company."

Mr. Holland ended the conversation saying: "I am sure you would be able to do that as well as run the company."

In 1992, his involvement with the fund increased when he took over as chairman.

"The fund was a subtle way to bring people from both communities together. Instead of giving them cups of tea and saying 'let's get reconciled', it used job creation to give people an economic focus. In a low-key way, the fund brought people from both communities into projects to provide a human dynamic and develop relationships that would not have existed in a divided society."

Some of its flagship undertakings include the re-opening of the Shannon-Erne waterway, while many town centres have been given a face-lift with its support.

Mr. McCarter believes the fund's ability to be the first to put its cash on the table to back new projects has been a tremendous asset in terms of providing a kick-start for fresh ideas. Its role in the Shannon-Erne waterway, he says, is a good example of what the fund can do.

"When it was first mentioned, it was regarded as a completely mad project. The fund commissioned a GBP 1 million feasibility study that showed it might work. We later put another GBP 5 million into it and attracted other investment. If the fund hadn't put GBP 1 million down initially, the Shannon-Erne waterway wouldn't have happened," he says.

The fund claims to have played a central role in bringing about the joint marketing of Ireland as a tourist destination by the authorities in the North and the Republic. It has also fostered closer linkages between Cork, Trinity and Queen's universities in the field of microelectronics.

"A lot of initiatives have worked but the fund's role has been forgotten," according to Mr. McCarter. "I am glad that the fund is seen as a fair and reputable dealer. I have worked with very gifted people on the board and in the communities who have made a great contribution."

While US presidents have played a crucial role in supporting the peace process and the IFI's work, its contribution to the fund has been reduced from \$25 million to \$18.5 million under the Bush administration due to budgetary pressures.

Mr. McCarter says this figure is "not half bad" and suggests that the Bush administration has been misjudged in terms of its commitment to Ireland.

"President Bush may not have the same personal interest as President Clinton but the administration has a very tangible interest in Ireland, the peace process and the fund. Support in the Senate and the House of Representatives remains extremely strong. These people are made of stern stuff. They will see things through until there is a stable society," he says.

While the peace process is currently at an impasse, Mr. McCarter believes there is little danger that the enormous strides made, in terms of improving relationships and raising prosperity, will be reversed.

"I don't think it will unravel. Too many people can see the benefits. I have lived in a border area all of my life and can see a tangible change."

Mr. McCarter was ousted from Fruit of the Loom in 1997 following differences with its

then owner, US corporate raider Bill Farley. The exit of the McCarter family from the business was a blow for the workforce and signalled the end of an era in terms of job security. The workforce has dropped to around 500, with the entire operations to be moved to Morocco over the next three to four years.

"When it goes to Morocco, it will be after 20 years in the north-west. It did a lot of good. Fruit of the Loom led to a lot of people making lives for themselves and was influential in improving the local infrastructure. I will be sorry to see it go. I am very fond of Donegal and Derry, which now need a substantial investment."

In the future, Mr. McCarter says his main interest will be in Cooley Distillery, the independent whiskey maker founded by his long-time friend, John Teeling. Mr. McCarter is a director and is also on the board of Norish. He is keen to get involved in other businesses.

"I already do quite a lot of work at Cooley and am looking for more non-executive roles," he says. "I would also like to find some way of retaining the many US connections I have made over the years."

HONORING PATRICIA R. FORBES

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to honor the work, dedication and career of Patricia R. Forbes, a champion for this Nation's small businesses. In just a few days, Patty will be retiring and my office will be losing a truly superb staff member. I cannot think of many people who have contributed as selflessly and as competently in a wonderfully bipartisan fashion as she has.

Prior to joining my staff, Patty served 11 years at the Small Business Administration and spent 4 years directing the staff of then-chair of the Senate Small Business Committee, Senator Dale Bumpers from Arkansas. During Senator Bumpers' chairmanship, Patty served as his majority counsel and later as his deputy staff director and counsel. In her tenure as my staff director and chief counsel on the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, she has proven to be an invaluable asset to me and the committee.

Patty joined my staff shortly after I became the chair of the Small Business Committee in 1997. Whether it has been developing and implementing an effective small business legislative agenda, preparing legislation, ensuring that adequate appropriations are directed to small business initiatives, preparing hearings, correspondence or speeches, Patty has been an exemplary leader to the staff of the Small Business Committee. Her ability to craft and negotiate meaningful and responsible legislation affecting SBA's programs and the Nation's small businesses has been a driving force behind the bipartisanship and effectiveness of this committee. Senators on both sides of the aisle have grown to respect her expertise, her commitment to small businesses, and her unfailing devotion to her work.

During her career, Patty Forbes has made a significant impact on the lives of millions of entrepreneurs. For 13

years, Patty worked in the Senate fighting to provide small businesses greater access to capital, Government contracts, business counseling and training opportunities, tax relief and a plethora of other items that help this Nation's economy grow and help individuals reach for the American dream. I, along with the entire small business community, have been truly lucky to have had her service over the years.

Patty Forbes is leaving behind a legacy of commitment and capability that has helped many entrepreneurs turn their vision into reality. She can take pride in the work she has done for me, the U.S. Senate, and this Nation. Patty Forbes will truly be missed.

NATIONAL SPORTSMANSHIP DAY

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, today marks the 15th anniversary of National Sportsmanship Day, which is celebrated on the first Tuesday of each March. National Sportsmanship Day was the creation of the Institute of International Sport at the University of Rhode Island, and it is now the largest initiative of its kind in the world.

On March 6, 1990, the Institute celebrated the first National Sportsmanship Day in approximately 3,000 schools. By promoting sportsmanship through this ceremonial day over the ensuing 15 years, the institute has made a positive impact on the lives of hundreds of thousands of young student-athletes. The institute has received thousands of letters and e-mails commending its leadership in this area. National Sportsmanship Day also has spawned many local sportsmanship initiatives, led to the creation of an annual essay contest on sportsmanship in USA Today, and inspired the celebration of sportsmanship days in foreign countries such as Australia and Bermuda.

This year, through the institute's Team Sportsmanship initiative, groups of college athletes will visit their local elementary, middle, and high schools to further a dialogue among youth about sportsmanship and fair play. As evidenced by media reports on drug scandals and on-field fights, the promotion of sportsmanship among youngsters remains a useful and beneficial endeavor.

I applaud this year's participants in National Sportsmanship Day, and congratulate the institute for its ongoing work to instill the best of values in America's youth.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, today, March 1, is National Sportsmanship Day. A project of the Institute for International Sport at the University of Rhode Island, National Sportsmanship Day is the largest initiative of its kind in the world. Now in its 15th year of promoting the highest ideals of sportsmanship and fair play among America's youth, the day will be observed in over 13,000 schools in all 50 States. The day will involve more than 5 million students, teachers, adminis-

trators, coaches, and parents in discussions on the issue of sportsmanship.

National Sportsmanship Day was first championed by Rhode Island Senators Claiborne Pell and the late John Chafee. This year, National Sportsmanship Day will honor these Senators; USA Today, which conducts an annual National Sportsmanship Day essay contest, and its sports editor Monte Lorell; the President's Council on Physical Fitness; the Old Dominican Athletic Conference, which has reinforced the values of sportsmanship among its teams; and Playing for Peace, an international organization which uses basketball and sportsmanship to bring young people together from communities such as Belfast, Northern Ireland and Johannesburg, South Africa.

I am proud Rhode Island is home to the Institute for International Sport and National Sportsmanship Day, and pleased to see the positive influence it has had on youngsters across the Nation during its 15 years of promoting the best in athletics.

VERMONT ADJUTANT GENERAL MARTHA RAINVILLE

Mr. LEAHY. Since early November, over 1,000 citizen-soldiers from the Vermont National Guard have answered the time-honored call to duty. These proud, strong, and intelligent men and women of the 86th Brigade were activated for service in the Middle East. In some of the most moving series of events I have experienced as Senator, these Vermonters separated from loved ones at various sendoff ceremonies all across the State. They formed into ranks and marched off for training and, eventually, for war. In mobilizing for service, they joined almost 200 members of Vermont's Green Mountain Boys who just returned from their yearlong deployment to Iraq. Watching over this moving sendoff and standing as a strong, intelligent, and assuring presence was the Adjutant General of the State of Vermont, MG Martha Rainville.

Superbly carrying out her responsibilities as Vermont's senior military leader, General Rainville has ensured that these units, as well as any deploying Vermont Guard company, squadron, or detachment, have had the best preparation possible. She always tries to make certain that the Vermont National Guard has the resources to carry out any mission, whether at home or abroad. At the same time, General Rainville has a special empathy for her soldiers and airmen, working to comfort them during the inevitable pains of family separation.

I am very proud that General Rainville has recently been reelected by the Vermont Legislature to the position of Vermont Adjutant General and that, late last year, she was recognized as Vermonter of the Year by the Burlington Free Press, one of Vermont's largest circulation news-

papers. General Rainville is a consummate professional, skilled leader, and caring human being. She has had a noticeable effect on the readiness of the 4,000 members of the Vermont National Guard and has become a critical part of the leadership of the entire National Guard, one of our Nation's most cherished institutions. These recognitions are representative of all the Guard members, families, and employers from Vermont who are making huge sacrifices for the war efforts.

Martha Rainville assumed the position of Adjutant General of the State of Vermont in 1997. She gained valuable experience and understanding of the military from her service as a commander of the maintenance unit of the 158th Fighter Wing of the Vermont Air National Guard. When she stood up and said she was ready to take the reigns of the entire Guard, she promised to bring a fresh approach to tackling the Guard's tasks and challenges.

From the first day, General Rainville has brought a careful yet energetic approach to her position. She pays close attention to the day-to-day operations of the Vermont Guard, yet gives her commanders the flexibility to do the job right. This ability to balance small details with a sense of the larger picture has enabled the Vermont National Guard to respond so well to its real-world missions after September 11. From 24-hour air patrols to increasing security along the northern border to deploying for the war in Iraq, the Vermont Guard has responded well due in part to General Rainville's leadership.

Vermont Adjutant General Martha Rainville is a credit to the National Guard, the State of Vermont, and the country as a whole. I am so proud to have seen her move through the ranks in Vermont and assume her critically important role. I know she will continue to provide strong leadership to our proud citizen-soldiers, and I believe she deserves our gratitude, our congratulations, and our thanks.

IN HONOR OF JUDGE JANE MCKEAG

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, it is my honor to speak in recognition of Judge Jane McKeag. Judge McKeag has served the last 11 years as a United States Bankruptcy Judge for the Eastern District of California, Sacramento Division.

In addition to her service as a judge, Jane McKeag utilized her expertise to educate the community and improve the bankruptcy system in Sacramento County, the State of California, and the Nation. Her many accomplishments are testament to her strong leadership and devotion to public service. Throughout her career she served the law community as a member of the Ninth Circuit Conference Executive Committee, the Eastern District Uniform Bankruptcy Rules Committee and the Finance Committee of the National